

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 IO-13 AID-05

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 SS-15

NSC-05 L-03 /085 W

-----079208 121435Z /42

R 120746Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRAIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0096

INFO AMEMBASSY BISSAU POUCH

AMEMBASSY DAKAR POUCH

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAIA 0118

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, PINT, XJ, AO, CV

SUBJECT: SHIPMENTS OF WHEAT FLOUR TO ANGOLA

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCES CONCERNING SHIPMENTS OF WHEAT FLOUR FROM MINDELO TO LUANDA. SOURCES INDICATE THAT FLOUR MILLED IN MINDELO FROM WHEAT DONATED TO CAPE VERDE BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS BEING SHIPPED ON A REGULAR BASIS TO LUANDA TO RELIEVE TREMENDOUS SHORTAGES OF BREAD IN THAT CITY. SHIPMENTS ARE NORMALLY MADE ON FOREIGN FLAG (OTHER THAN CAPEVERDEAN VESSELS) THOUGH CVS INDEPENDENCIA WAS USED ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION. SHIPMENTS REPORTEDLY BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER 1977 AND CONTINUED AT LEAST INTO FEBRUARY.

2. ESTIMATES OF AMOUNTS ALREADY SHIPPED TO LUANDA VARY GREATLY, FROM TWELVE HUNDRED (1200) TONS TO EIGHTEEN HUNDRED (1800) TONS. FLOUR IS SACKED. AT LEAST INITIALLY WHEAT GERM WAS BEING FED TO LIVESTOCK ON SAO VICENTE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PORTUGAL IS NOW PURCHASING SOME OF THE LEFTOVER WHEAT GERM.

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3. CAPE VERDE CONTINUES TO RECEIVE WHEAT IN EXCESS OF ITS DIETARY NEEDS FROM DONOR COUNTRIES.

4. ANGOLA SEEMS TO BE PAYING FOR THESE SHIPMENTS IN U.S. DOLLARS. EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO LEARN SALE PRICE OF FLOUR OR METHOD OF TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM LUANDA TO CAPE VERDE.

5. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MODEST AMOUNTS OF WHEAT FLOUR AND RICE
ARE ALSO BEING SOLD OR BARTERED TO GUINEA-BISSAU.

6. WE HAVE SKETCHY INFORMATION INDICATING THAT PRIME MINISTER
PEDRO PIRES HAS EXPRESSED HIS OPPOSITION TO THESE SHIPMENTS
AND HAS ASKED FOR A REVIEW OF THE QUESTION.

7. EMBASSY REGRETS SKETCHY NATURE OF THIS
INFORMATION BUT CAPEVERDEAN OFFICIALS AND SOURCES HAVE BEEN
UNDERSTANDABLY RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER.
MCGOWAN

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